

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

July 9, 2002

**PUBLIC HEARING SET ON PROFESSIONAL LIABILITY INSURANCE FOR  
LAWYERS**

The Illinois Supreme Court Rules Committee will hold a public hearing on a proposal requiring Illinois attorneys to maintain adequate insurance to compensate clients for the attorneys' professional liability.

The hearing will be held Monday, July 15, 2002 at 10 a.m. at 160 N. LaSalle Street, Room C-500. Patricia C. Bobb, chairperson of the Rules Committee, will preside.

The proposal is offered by the Illinois State Bar Association Special Committee on Attorneys' Financial Responsibility.

It requires attorneys in private practice - those not exclusively employed in federal, state or local governments, or in-house corporate counsel - to maintain adequate liability insurance or other forms of financial responsibility.

For example, a solo practitioner under the proposal would be required to carry minimum insurance in the amounts of \$100,000 per incident with a \$300,000 annual aggregate. A law firm with more than one attorney would be required under the proposal to carry a minimum of \$250,000 per claim and \$500,000 for all claims during the policy year.

The proposal also allows an attorney or law firm to comply with the rule by providing funds of a minimum of \$50,000 for each attorney practicing in the law firm up to a maximum of \$5 million. Such funds must be designated by deposit in trust or in bank escrow of cash, in U.S. Treasury obligations, a bank letter of credit or a surety bond.

The Rules Committee will also hear testimony regarding a proposed change to Rule 218 (c) which would clarify that case management orders will set dates for disclosure of rebuttal witnesses in a civil trial, if any, and that parties may agree to waive or modify the 60 day rule without altering the trial date.

Notice of the hearing, accompanied by the proposed amendments, has been distributed to members of the bench and bar throughout the state, and public commentary also was invited.

The proposals may be examined on the Supreme Court's website at [www.state.il.us/court](http://www.state.il.us/court). To view the proposals, select "Supreme Court of Illinois" and then select "Supreme Court Committees/Commissions". The proposals are under the subsection titled "Public Hearings."